

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

AMBES OIL DEPOT



Crude oil tank failure 12/01/2007

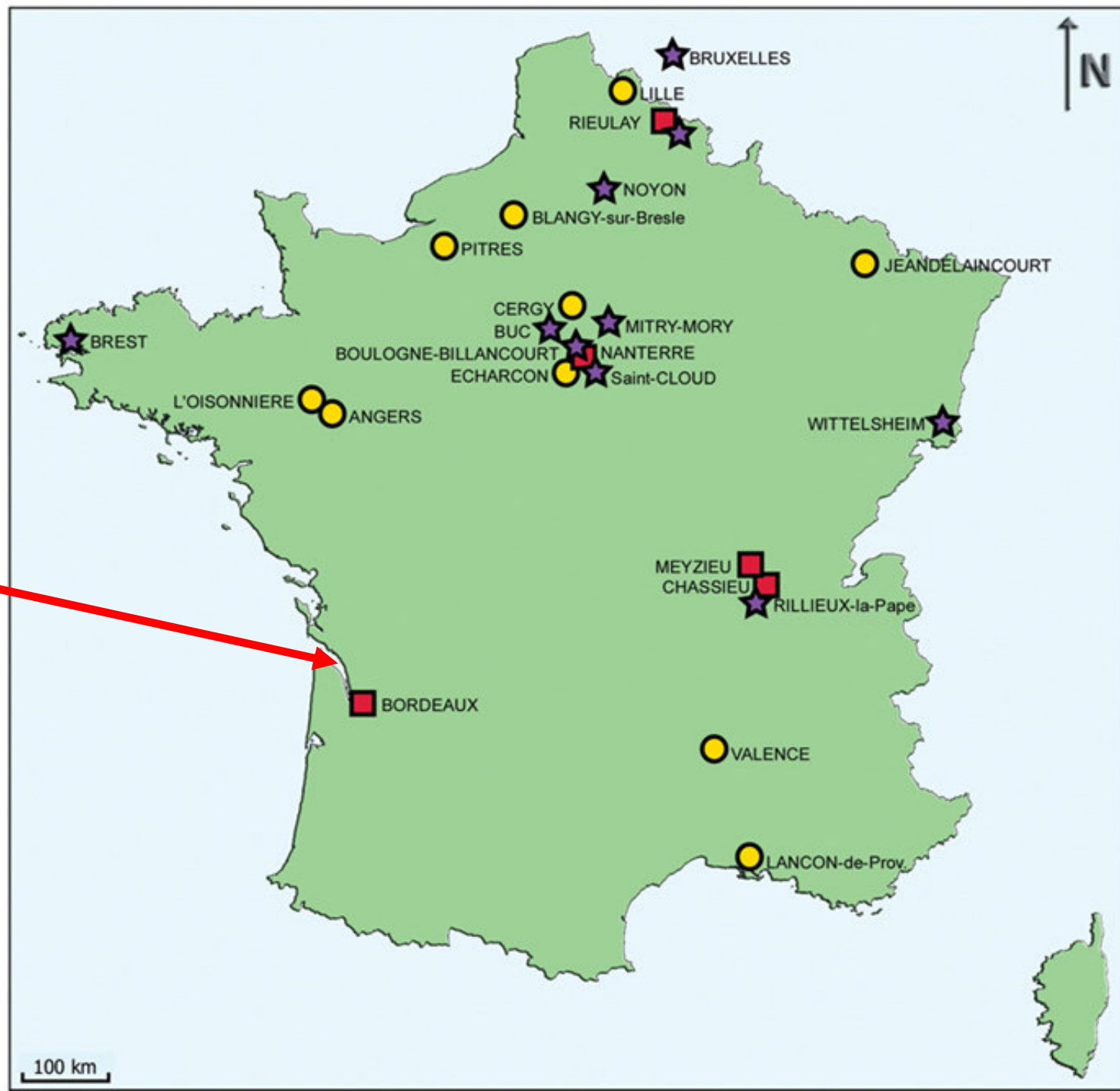
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Oil depot





Ambès Oil depot

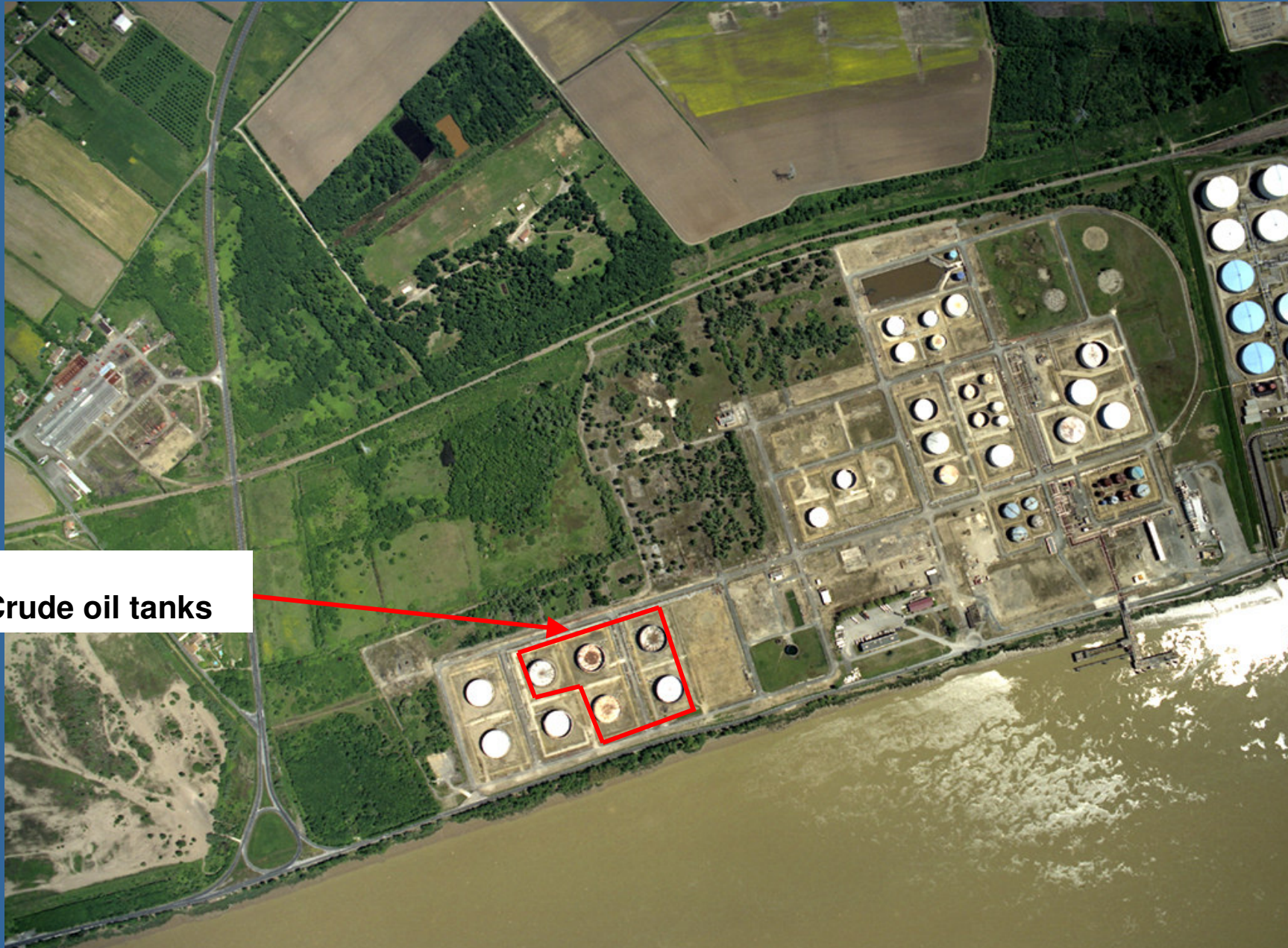
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Mise au point 100%

© 2007 Google

Altitude 100.07 m

OIL DEPOT



Crude oil tanks

II. THE ACCIDENT



Thursday 11 January 2007 – 15h
Little leakage on tank bottom



Friday 12 January 2007 – 8h

Failure of the bottom of the tank 1602

13 500 m³ (85 000 barrels) of Aquitaine crude oil spilled



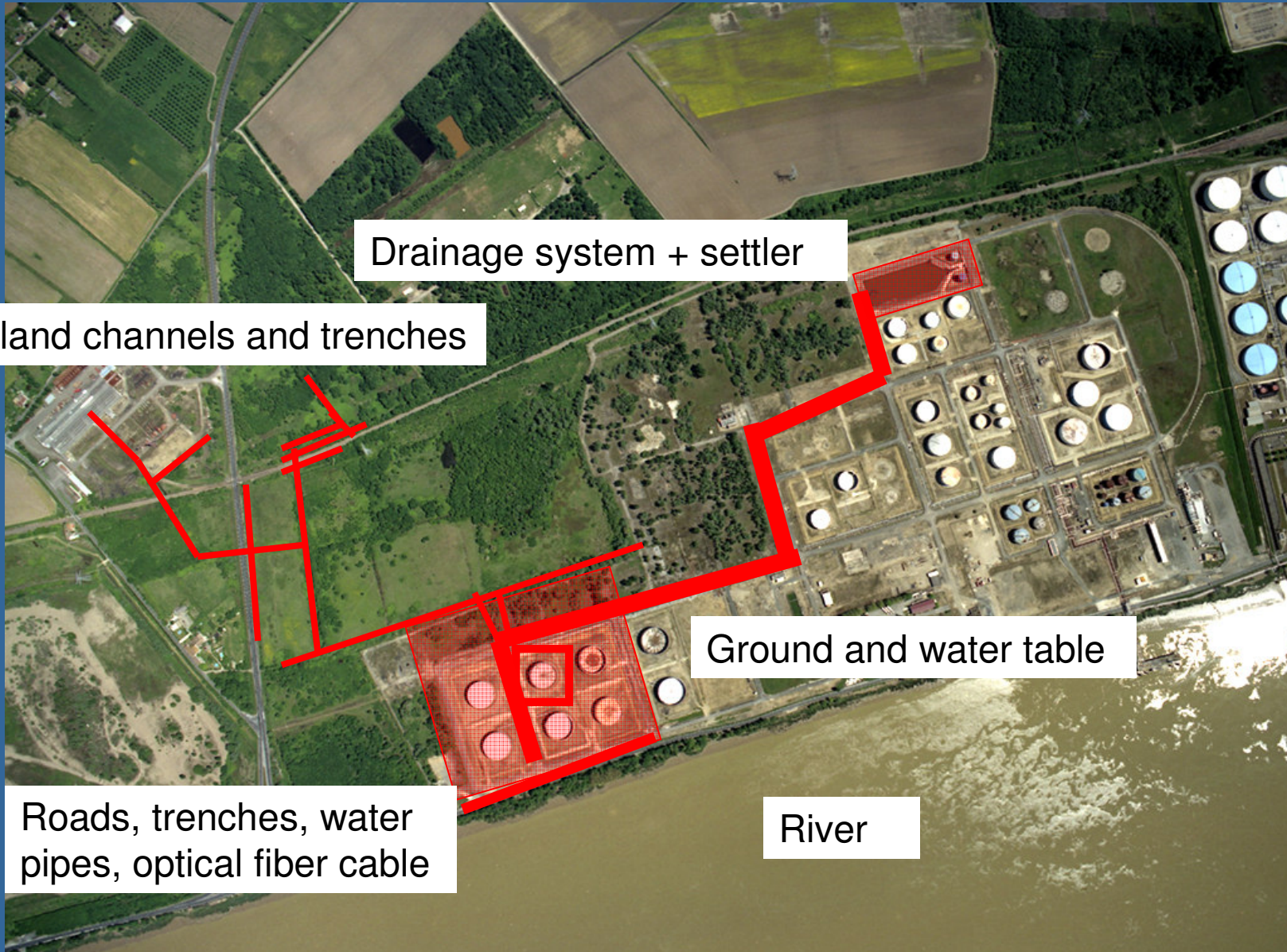


TANK BOTTOM, RETENTION POOL, WAVE EFFECT (Splash over of 2000 m³ (12600 barrels))



Spreading of the crude oil through drainage system and roads ...outside the depot

Impacted areas



III. FIRST MEASURES TAKEN BY THE OPERATOR



- ➔ Measures of conservation
- ➔ Activating of the internal emergency plan



- Alert of the authorities and fire brigade
- Spreading of foaming agent
- Evacuating all personnel onsite
- Requesting the closure of the nearby major road



IV. ACTIONS CONDUCTED BY FIRE BRIGADE

- Activation of a command center (60 firemen and 15 vehicles)
- In the same time, activation of crisis center:
 - By the Prefet (local representative of the state)
 - By the director of the Blayais nuclear power plant (downstream of the oil depot)



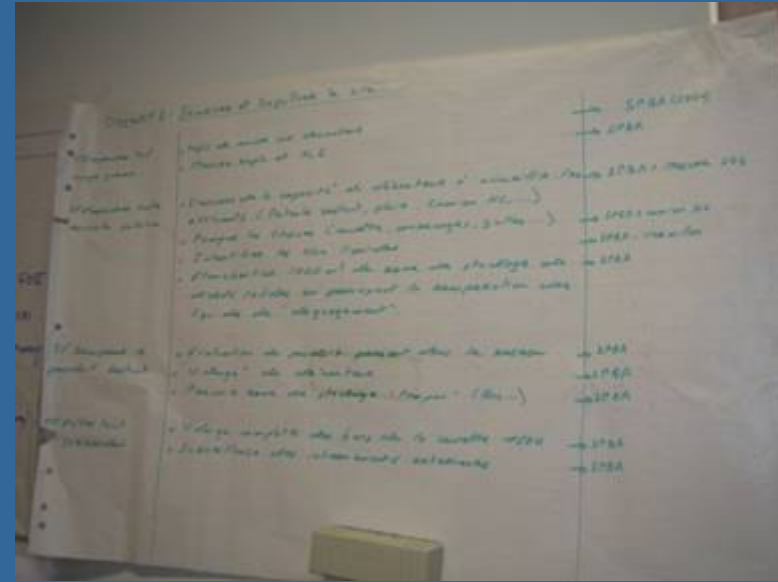
- Stopping all operations and cutting the power





THE COMMAND CENTER

- Reconnaissance onsite: looking for potential victims, air quality monitoring (explosive gas, hydrogen sulfide)



- Spraying foaming agent on the settler

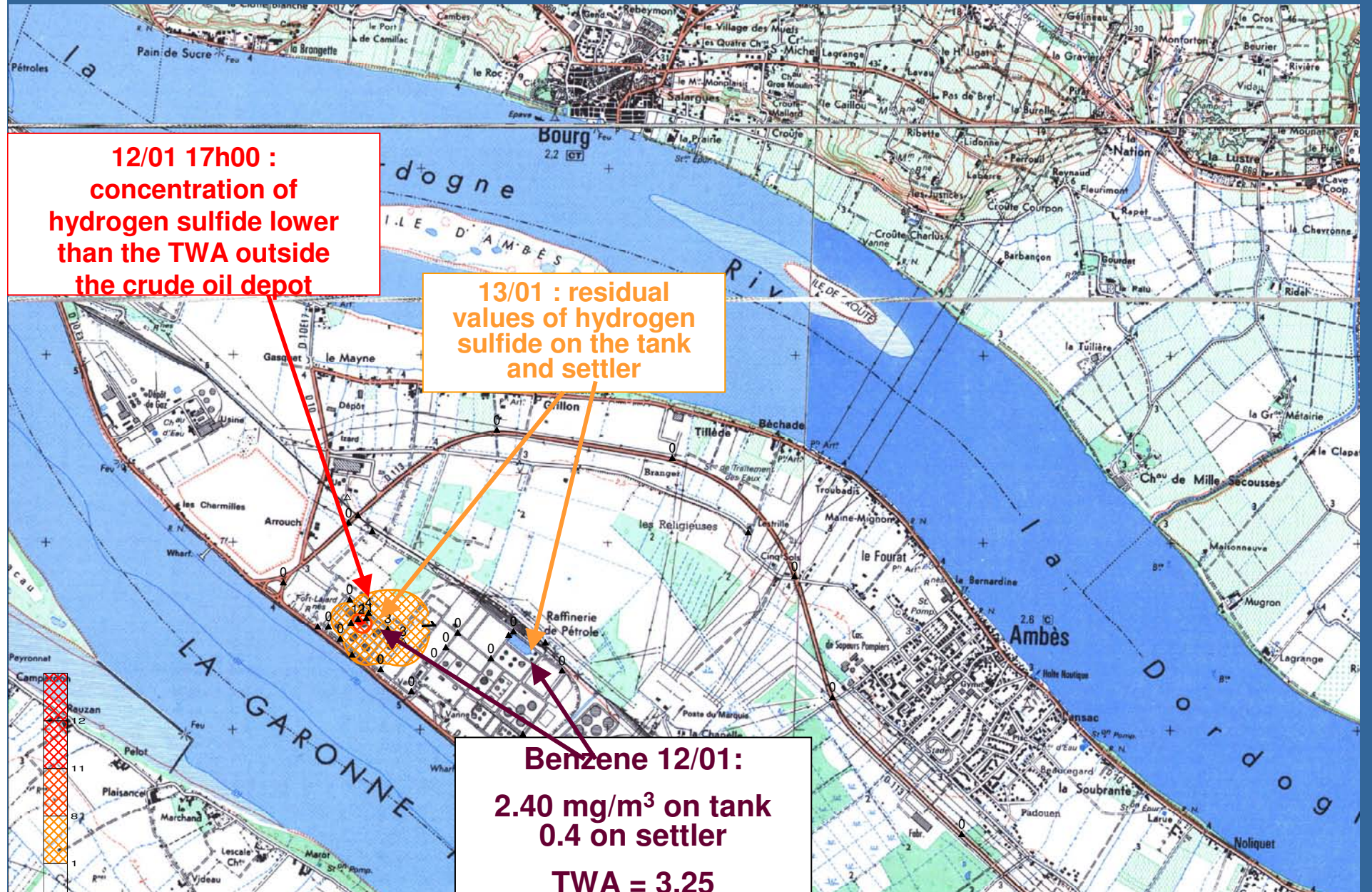


Air quality monitoring: explosive gas, hydrogen sulfide, VOC (BTEX)

Foaming agent



Air quality (source: SGS Laboratory)



- Evacuating of nearby population during one day
- Aerial observation of the impacted areas
- Alert of the railway company, port authority and neighboring companies for stopping navigation, rail traffic and activities



- Pumping of the oil contained in the retention pools (around 72 000 barrels)
- Transfer of all the oil in other tanks and closure of this part of the depot (8 tanks)



- Digging of spreading break trenches to contain surface oil and oil floating on the water table



- 80 people 24h/24 during 8 days



- End of the fire brigade response after 8 days and transfer of the response direction to the oil depot operator.

V. RESPONSE IN THE RIVER

FIRST SURVEY : aerial observation 12/01/2007



ANALYSE DE L'IMPACT ENVIRONNEMENTAL
ETAT DE L'ART
PROJET DE CONSTRUCTION D'UNE
USINE DE TRAITEMENT DES EAU
D'EGOUTS
12/01/2007

12/01/07 : around 50 m³ of crude oil on the right bank of the *Garonne* river in the beginning of the flood tide.

SURVEY



SITUATION on the 13.01.2007



Reconnaissance DRAGON 33 du 13.01.2007 (SDIS 33 / FOST)

« Entre PK 45 et PK 35 : irisations.

Au niveau de PK 35 (Blaye) : stagnation du polluant sur les hauts-fonds.

De PK 35 à PK 10 : polluant libre en surface (traînées d'hydrocarbures de taille et de concentration variables.

En amont de PK 10 : irisations

Dordogne : berges souillées jusqu'à l'île de Croute. »

Reconnaissance nautique du 13.01.2007 (SDIS 33 /Cedre) sur la Garonne

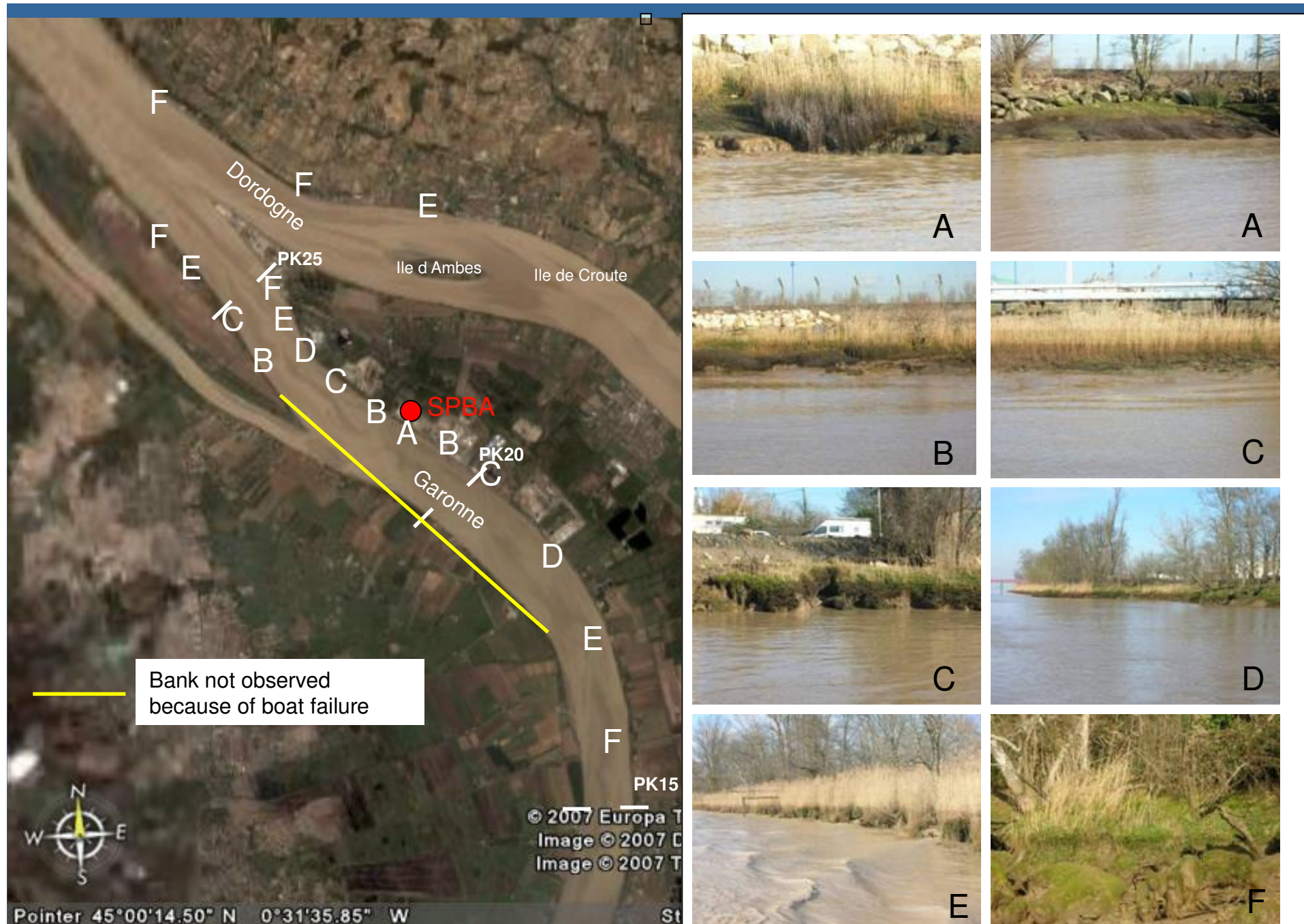
Berges rive droite, au droit du site : dépôt de polluant fluide sur la vase et la végétation

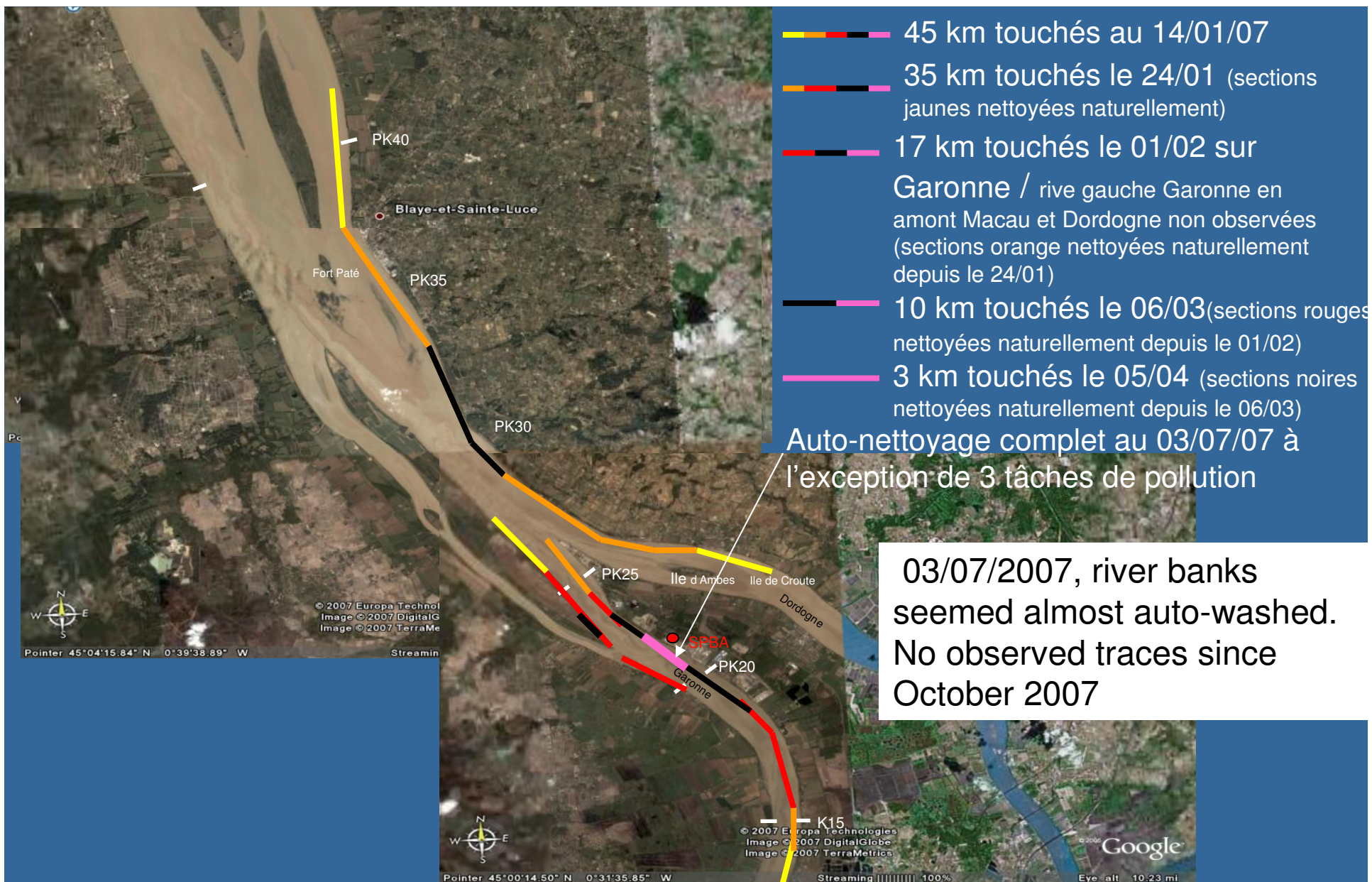
Entre PK 25 et PK 15 : polluant fluide sous forme de « traînées », celles-ci ayant tendance à se concentrer sous les apports.

Au niveau de PK 15 (rive gauche) : liseré continu d'environ 15 cm de haut sur végétation rase.

Remarque : Avifaune : observations de quelques individus souillés

First complete nautical survey on 24 January 2007 by *Cedre*





Synthesis of the nautical survey (24/01, 01/02, 06/03, 03/07) and pedestrian survey (05/04 et 03/07).

RESPONSE AGAINST FLOATING OIL



Source : SPBA

Dispersant spraying (12/01/2007) + boat recovery attempt (13/01/07)



Arrangement of sorbent booms under the wharfs to catch floating pollutant despite two directions of tidal current (began 14/01/2007)

Dynamic then manual recovery of floating pollutant
(began 15/01/2007)

CONTAINMENT AND PUMPING OF OIL WHICH COULD FLOW TOWARDS THE RIVER



Pumping of pollutant accumulations near the banks (began 12/01/2007)



Fitting of tidal seal boom in front of main leak (15/01/2007)



Fitting of sorbent booms in front of other leaks
(began 14/01/2007)



Makeshift booms (wire netting + straw + geotextile) to reinforce existing system
(began 18/01/2007)



Creation of earth dams to contain and recover pollutant in front of leaking sources (began 19/01/2007)

ROUGH CLEAN-UP OF THE BANKS



Manual recovery of polluted litters and vegetation to avoid remobilization due to increasing tide coefficient

(began 20/01/2007)

NO FINAL CLEAN-UP AS DECIDED DURING A MEETING CONDUCTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN FEBRUARY

VI. RESPONSE IN THE MARSHLAND CHANNELS



TO AVOID OIL SPREADING WITH MAKESHIFT BOOMS



TO PRUNE AND TO CLEAR



TO MARK ACCESS AND PROTECT THE GROUND



TO RECOVER THE OIL





USING LOCAL TOOLS



TO CUT, COLLECT AND EVACUATE OILED VEGETATION FROM THE BANKS



TO SCRAPE AND RINSE THE BANKS, USE OF SORBENTS



Regular visits on site for validation of the operations by industrials, municipalities, local authorities, NGO, insurance, etc

11/04/08



18/09/08

Example:
Channel J

20/02/07



07/03/07



04/04/07



23/04/07



02/07/2007



10/10/2007



18/12/2007



23/04/2008



18/09/2008



Marshland channels soil analysis :

(1st campaign)

- 172 samples during February 2008 on ranges 0-0,15 m depth and 0,15-0,30 m with systematic TPH analysis and PAHs + BTEX on 10 higher TPH rates
 - TPH :
 - Concentrations from detection limit to 87 000 mg/kg in the superficial layer near tank 1602
 - Average : 3 000 mg/kg
 - PAHs :
 - Concentration from 2,18 to 44,01 mg/kg, under 50 mg/kg (threshold for inert waste according to French regulation)
 - BTEX :
 - Low level, about 1 mg/kg, without traces of benzene

Marshland channels soil analysis :

(2nd campaign)

- 25 new samples during September 2008 of which 19 among most TPH polluted points of February 2008
 - TPH : concentration decrease by factor :
 - 2 to 10 for 11 samples
 - 35 to 9000 for those located in marshland channel nearest of tank 1602
 - Natural decrease, confirmed by laboratory biodegradation tests

Marshland channels water analysis :

- 8 samples during February 2008 downstream in each marshland channel
 - TPH :
 - Concentrations lower than $0,05 \mu\text{g} / \text{L}$
 - PAHs :
 - No detection
 - BTEX :
 - No detection
- Sediments residual pollution has no impact on water quality

XI. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- POLLUTED SOILS :
 - Storage on site
 - Study on treatment process on going
- SOLID WASTE :
 - Storage into skip containers
 - Incineration as Dangerous waste
- LIQUID WASTE :
 - Storage and settling into settler
 - Oil reintroduced into process
 - Water polluted by foaming agent treated on site by biodegradation



Polluted soil



Polluted vegetation
and other waste



Liquid waste



205 tons of polluted solid waste incinerated by the end of summer 2008 for an average cost of 500 €/ton



CASE STUDY